



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

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MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO 78 MONTHS PRISON FOR IMPORTING AND POSSESSING COCAINE

TUCSON, Ariz. – Juan Carlos Fierro-Campas, 27, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here on February 17, 2005 to 78 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Frank R. Zapata. Fierro-Campas pleaded guilty on August 18, 2004 to Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine and Importation of Cocaine in violation of Title 21, U.S. Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A)(ii)(II) and 952(a), 960(a)(1) and (b)(1)(B)(ii), respectively.

On May 16, 2004, the defendant attempted to enter the U.S. from Mexico at the port of entry in Nogales, Ariz., while driving a vehicle. Customs inspectors tapped on the gas tank and heard a dull sounding thud, consistent with the presence of contraband. A thorough search of the vehicle revealed cocaine hidden in the gas tank. The defendant admitted knowing there were drugs in the vehicle, however, he did not know what type of drug. He said he was offered \$1,600 to take the drugs to a location in Nogales, Ariz. He stated that he had made arrangements the week before his arrest to pick up the vehicle at a gas station and that someone else would then register the vehicle in his name.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-1306-TUC-FRZ (BPV)

RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-032

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